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about 8 o'clock yesterday morning one of the plague, and was removed to the Court Hospital. The man, who was taken to the hospital, was a ward. Subsequently he was found at the Circular Quay, and was taken back to the hospital.

It is expected that the troopship Australia, with 1350 New Zealanders from South Africa, will reach Sydney on Sunday next. The ship will be met by the Governor, and the ceremony of disembarking will be entertained at the Town Hall.

Evidence was given before the Public Works Committee yesterday on the expediency of constructing a line of railway from Oxford-street to Clarence-street, Queen-street, and Edgecliff-road, to Belmore Hill.

Mr. P. F. Barron Morley, the young pianist who left Sydney four years ago, returned by the Sonoma yesterday. He has some interesting information of student life at Vienna.

The State Parliament will be opened to-morrow by the new Governor, Sir Harry Rawson.

At a meeting of the Paddington Municipal Council last night a resolution was passed declaring opposition to the Greater Sydney scheme.

The Railway Commissioners have, at the instance of the Water and Sewerage Board, agreed to discontinue for the present the watering of the street tramway.

The New Zealand Court of Arbitration is delivering judgment in a case at Wellington made an important utterance against bearing boys from obtaining suitable employment.

The Government have been notified in connection with doctors' prescriptions has been arrested at Christchurch, New Zealand.

The barque Zealander, which left Sydney on the 6th instant for Tasmania, unexpectedly returned to port yesterday.

She encountered heavy gales, and was hove-to for 16 days. The provisions ran short, and the captain was compelled to return to Sydney.

The R.M.S. Moana arrived from Vancouver yesterday, two days in advance of contract time. Her cargo consists of 1000 tons of lumber.

On the Stock Exchange yesterday there was a fair amount of business transacted in investment stocks. Prices were well maintained.

An exceptionally quiet day was experienced on the Sydney market yesterday, prices generally being steady.

MR. PHILIP ON FEDERATION.

While the Minister for Home Affairs was pleading at Henry on Saturday night for unanimity of feeling between the States and the Commonwealth, the Queensland Premier, just returned from the conference in Sydney, has been asked to tell us what the Brisbane Premier has to say on the subject. According to Sir William Lyne, the common sense of Australians will lead them to see that "there must be no fright nor tearing asunder nor pulling down of the Commonwealth." There had been no failure, so far, he contended, and he desired the State Premiers to understand that the Commonwealth Government wanted complete unanimity, and that if a single official critic of the situation might here be permitted to suggest that if there have been no failures nor mistakes under federation the defence is unnecessary. The point might also be taken that although this State has sent two or three Ministers into the Cabinet none of them has yet faced the responsibility of giving an account of his stewardship to his constituents, and that if the Home Secretary may reply, fairly enough, that his particular deliverance was made in his own electorate; but a Federal Minister elected in New South Wales has a larger constituency than that. Now we have the Premier of Queensland making the statements for publication in Brisbane that many people here are tired of federation, that the feeling of antagonism is growing again, and that if a vote were taken in this State against it would be cast strongly against federation. "I believe they will try to carry a resolution in the New South Wales Assembly to take another plebiscite," says Mr. Philip. We venture to believe he is mistaken here, and another remark which must be taken with a good deal of caution is that to the effect that if the plebiscite were taken, and the result was in favour of early power could stop them. That experiment has been tried elsewhere, with disastrous results, as the military history of the United States bears ample record.

Nothing is to be gained by denying that Federal Ministers have made some mistakes in conducting the first steps of the Commonwealth. Possibly some critics could have been guided by the fact that the Ministers had done they had done wrongly. Party feeling would have governed judgment in some directions, and we have not yet had time to forget that there were some who opposed federation altogether, and who therefore were predisposed to predict failure. Clear-sighted federalists will prefer to look at the situation from a standpoint entirely uncoloured by the personal or administrative mistakes of the Government, and the federal principle. The position of New South Wales in any such survey is simple enough. We did not enter into the federation in any hope of making immediate profit by barter, as it were. We saw that there were sacrifices to be made, and we willingly made them for the sake of union. The federation was entered into for the benefit of the nation, and the national benefits on the broader scale were to be achieved by union, together with the capacity to do certain necessary things that could not be attained in any other way. We wanted to stop the war of tariffs and border duties, to combine for purposes of joint national defence, to assimilate our legal systems, to buy and light our own systems, and to have a common tariff. We wanted to speak with one voice on matters wherein the interests of Australia as a whole were concerned. These and other consequences of federation had to come sooner or later, and the difficulty had to be met and the price paid sooner or later. It was quite well understood that it would take several years before the federation could be fully consolidated. All this was duly explained and understood at the time, and those who voted for federation are not likely to forget it now. It is therefore meaningless to talk as Mr. Philip does of a desire to break up the union. If any members of the Legislative Assembly have told him they were ready to move for another plebiscite it was because some of them who are nervously apprehensive just now of losing their seats by the reductions due to federation. Mr. Philip need not pay too much attention to what he hears from these quarters, nor need federalists take him too seriously when he exaggerates his quite natural impatience with the local effects of some of the acts of Ministers in equity to federation.

There is no doubt that Queensland, already sorely stricken by the drought, has not its immediate burden lightened by certain federal acts. Mr. Philip has spoken out about some of them before, and in his position he is to be sympathised with. We in New South Wales, at all events, are not disposed to complain of the events, or to regard the difficulties he has pointed out, with take one example, may be at once admitted. In this State we have to complain of shipping and customs regulations which interfere with the trade of our port, of the high tariff duties which Ministers sought to impose, and, in common with the rest of the Commonwealth, of the difficulties attending with the machinery bills essential to the completion of the federation. We consequently are not in agreement with Sir William Lyne when he contends that there has been no failure, if by

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